Direct recruitment vacancies in different Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are regulated in terms of the Annual Direct Recruitment Plan scheme of the Department of the Personnel and Training. All Ministries/ Departments are required to fill up the vacancies as per the extant guidelines of the scheme.

Charging of heavy security amount in open tenders

4325. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to asking of heavy security amount to be deposited/ Earnest Money Deposit in the open tenders, only limited parties are taking part in the tenders depriving fair competition;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to charge only nominal security/ EMD amount to encourage more competition;

(c) whether stationery and other items have been purchased more in quantity under rules 145 and 146, GFRs-2005 than on open tender; and

(d) whether his Ministry did not compare the rates obtaining in Kendriya Bhandar before purchasing the stationery items from the other sources and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005 make it imperative on the procuring Ministries/Departments to bring efficiency, economy and transparency in public procurement for fair and equitable treatment of suppliers and promotion of competition in public procurement. Rule 137 lays down the various yardsticks to be followed by the procuring Ministries/Departments to ensure these aspects. As per GFRs-2005, to safeguard against a bidder's withdrawing or altering its bid during the bid validity period in the case of advertised or limited tender inquiry, Earnest Money is to be obtained from the bidders other than the exempted categories, ranging between 2% to 5% of the estimated value of the goods to be procured. The exact amount of Earnest Money Deposit is to be determined by the concerned Administrative Ministry/ Department and to be indicated in the bidding documents.

(c) and (d) Stationery and other items are purchased by different Ministries and Departments as per the powers delegated under 'Delegation of Financial Powers Rules'. No centralized data regarding the purchases

made by these Ministries/Departments is maintained by this Ministry. However, while exercising these powers, Ministries/Departments are required to ensure compliance of extant Rules governing purchase procedures as laid down in GFRs. The Competent Authority while exercising powers under these Rules are required to ascertain the reasonableness of rates, quality and specifications before making purchases from any source.

Reconstruction of infrastructure sectors in Gujarat

4326. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance approved by the Central Government to the State Government of Gujarat for reconstruction of infrastructure sectors damaged in floods of 2005 and 2006;

(b) whether Government are aware that CRF/NCCF provisions do not take into account permanent reconstruction, drought proofing and mitigation requirements in infrastructure sector damaged in natural calamities and the entire burden is to be borne by the State Government; and

(c) if so, the steps are being taken to provide financial assistance to State Government to rehabilitate and reconstruct the infrastructure damage as a result of natural disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has received the report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in April, 2007 with regard to financial assistance for long term rehabilitation and reconstruction of severely damaged infrastructure due to natural calamities in 2005 for the State of Gujarat. The detailed sector-wise break up of requirement of funds as assessed by IMC is as under:—

Health	Rs. 41.38	crores
Urban Infrastructure	Rs. 149.01	crores
Water Resources/ supply/Irrigation	Rs. 43.75	crores
Power/Energy	Rs. 577.76	crores
Road & Building	Rs. 446.00	crores
Housing	Rs. 50.00	crores
TOTAL:	Rs. 1307.90	crores